



DISPLAYS NEWS

DELL CUTS LCD TV PRICES

Dell has announced lower prices for its LCD TVs. Its 30" and 26" models have been reduced by as much as 10 per cent, which could spark a price war. Although other manufacturers were to increase prices of their 32" televisions due to high demand, it's unlikely that these price hikes will remain in the long term. It's expected that LCD TV panel prices will drop later in the year, as panel makers are to increase production again.



SHARP TO LAUNCH WORLD'S LARGEST LCD TV

Sharp is to introduce the world's largest LCD television when it launches a 65" model in Japan in August, before making it available in the US and Europe later this year.

However, the company expects to make around only 300 models per month, as the ¥1.68bn price (around £8,600) is well out of the range of most TV buyers. Plasma technology remains cheaper at these larger sizes; in the US 65" screens are now available for less than \$10,000 (around £5,500). Most of the four million LCD TVs that Sharp anticipates selling this year will be between 20" and 40".

REVIEW DLP PROJECTOR

TOSHIBA TDP-MT700

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £1,700 inc VAT and delivery

SUPPLIER www.pixmania.co.uk

DETAILS www.toshiba.co.uk

High definition (HD) is shaping up to be the next big thing in home computing. The first big standard will be 720p, which uses a resolution of 1,280x720. The Toshiba MT700 is the first affordable 720p DLP projector we've seen. Reasonably priced LCD HD projectors have been available for some time, but DLP projectors have some advantages, although they are generally more expensive.

The MT700 has a range of high-quality connections. There's a HDMI input, the digital connector of choice which is compatible with PC DVI outputs. There are two component inputs, and the usual S-video and composite inputs.

The obvious omission here is a SCART socket. While it doesn't offer the same quality as a component input, an RGB SCART is essential in the UK for most Freeview boxes and gives the best possible picture from Sky+ and games consoles.

Once hooked up through the HDMI or component inputs, the picture quality is stunning. The DLP chip achieves higher contrast ratios than LCD models can, resulting in darker-looking blacks and more detail in dark areas. Colours also appear stronger and more saturated.

The high-quality interlacer and scaler chips do a good job of dealing with standard resolution inputs such as DVDs, but it really comes to life with



HD content. Some clips from Microsoft's WMV HD website showed the MT700's capabilities with images that were full of incredible detail.

The unit is well built, looks great and has a sizable remote with many useful functions. The lamp has a 3,000-hour life on standard mode, which is significantly increased in eco mode.

This is a great projector at a very good price. If you aren't bothered about the lack of SCART or the price, it makes a great home cinema projector. For most, however, Panasonic's PT-AE700 for around £700 less is still the better choice.

Seth Barton

✓ High definition; great contrast

✗ No SCART socket

SPECIFICATIONS 0.8" DLP, 1,280x720 resolution, 1,000 lumens, 2,500:1 contrast ratio. **Part code** TDPMT700

HOTLIST 19" LCD MONITOR

SAMSUNG SM913N

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £235 inc VAT

SUPPLIER www.misco.co.uk

DETAILS www.samsung.co.uk



The SM913N's simple design and thin bezel are attractive and its image quality is excellent, with impeccable focus and smooth linear greyscales. Colour accuracy is superb, with the ability to resolve subtle details in images. The SM913N has a low price along with excellent image quality and a pleasing design, and fully deserves our Best Buy Award.



SPECIFICATIONS 1,280x1,024 native resolution, D-sub input. **Part code** MJ19ESKSB

HOTLIST 17" LCD MONITOR

RELISYS TL795-RU

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £163 inc VAT

SUPPLIER www.savastore.com

DETAILS www.relisys.co.uk



The TL795-RU looks very smart and unobtrusive, with neat desk-level D-sub and DVI inputs. Image quality is well above average with exceptionally smooth greyscales and accurate colour reproduction. It isn't as bright as some LCDs, but this didn't concern us overly. There are no other weaknesses, making this the best monitor for a tight budget.



SPECIFICATIONS 1,280x1,024 native resolution, D-sub, DVI and line inputs, headphone out, speakers. **Part code** TL795-RU

HOTLIST 20" LCD MONITOR

ACER AL2021MS

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £456 inc VAT

SUPPLIER www.savastore.com

DETAILS www.acer.co.uk



Acer's AL2021MS is amazingly affordable for a 20" LCD. We were bowled over by its image quality: its white was bright and pure, focus was spot on and viewing angles were exceptionally good. Photos displayed subtle details and good skin tone accuracy. The 25ms response time made games look slightly sluggish, but such high quality at this price makes it perfect for photo editing.



SPECIFICATIONS 1,600x1,200 native resolution, D-sub and DVI inputs, speakers. **Part code** AL2021MS

REVIEW 20" LCD MONITOR

LG L2013P

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £540 inc VAT

SUPPLIER www.savastore.com,

08700 270900
DETAILS www.lge.com

The LG L2013P's silver bezel looks good, and is adorned with 10 buttons that do a decent job of controlling a clear menu with all the usual options. It also has a Light View function, which allows quick changes between a number of predetermined setups for daytime and night-time use. These seemed a bit heavy-handed to us, but it was easy to set up manually.

The stand contains a gas lift system to assist in placing the screen at eye level and a pivot that makes it ideal for editing documents or database work. There's also a rotating base, allowing the screen to be twisted to face a colleague without a struggle. However, no speakers, USB hub or other frilleries are provided.

The 20.1" diagonal provides the usual massive 1,600x1,200 resolution at a 4:3 aspect with a tiny dot pitch of 0.255mm. It has the standard D-sub and DVI inputs, with easy switching between the two. Image quality on this kind of monitor is usually good and the L2013P is no exception. The backlight is consistent across the screen and gives a bright, clean white display. There is a little fall-off at the extreme edges, but nothing to be overly concerned about.

The greyscale gradient test was displayed flawlessly from white to black with no perceptible



banding. Our colour wheel test and example photos also came out well with colours that were both bright and distinct. Its 16ms response time isn't bad for a large monitor and will prove more than sufficient for game playing.

This is a great monitor that is ideal for those who would benefit from its large resolution and excellent image quality. However, the Acer AL2021MS in our Hotlist below also gives excellent image quality for £125 less. Although it lacks the gas lift and rotating base, it remains our top choice.

Seth Barton
☒ **Highly adjustable screen position**
☐ **No USB hub or speakers**
SPECIFICATIONS 1,600x1,200 native resolution, D-sub and DVI inputs. **Part code** L2013P

HOTLIST LCD TV

ACER AL2671W

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £575 inc VAT

SUPPLIER www.dabs.com
DETAILS www.acer.com


The Acer AL2671W has the stylish look of a flat TV, but without the expense or hassle of a full home cinema setup. It has plenty of inputs, including DVI, and a 1,280x768 resolution making it ideal for upcoming HD content. Image quality is great, and the excellent sound is provided by pseudo-surround speakers. Home cinema nuts should look elsewhere, but otherwise this is a real bargain.

SPECIFICATIONS 26" image, 1,280x768 native resolution, D-sub, DVI, two SCART and RF inputs, two 5W speakers. **Part code** EV.M0107.009

HOTLIST LCD PROJECTOR

PANASONIC PT-AE700

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £984 inc VAT and delivery

SUPPLIER www.pixmania.co.uk
DETAILS www.panasonic.co.uk

The PT-AE700 is a home cinema projector and its native 16:9 widescreen ratio is ideal for DVD, gaming and digital TV. Every connector is provided including component, SCART and HDMI, so you can enjoy a wide range of media with excellent image clarity. It is also one of the quietest projectors we've used. Bulb life is up to 4,000 hours in low lamp mode, though this requires a fully darkened room.

SPECIFICATIONS Three 0.7" LCD, 1,280x720 resolution, 1,000 lumens, 2000:1 contrast ratio. **Part code** PTAE700EC

CHOOSING AN...

LCD MONITOR



Follow our simple step-by-step guide to buying the perfect LCD

1 LCD screens (also known as TFTs) offer a range of benefits over conventional CRT models, including compact designs and sharp, straight images. However, LCD technology also has its disadvantages. Image quality can deteriorate at acute viewing angles, while the picture can appear fuzzy at resolutions below the native one. LCDs sometimes suffer from defective or 'dead' pixels.



2 A basic 17" LCD monitor (one with the specification shown in grey below) costs from £150, although similarly specified screens can cost as much as £250. The best models avoid the pitfalls mentioned above.

3 All 17" LCD screens have a native resolution of 1,280x1,024 pixels, which is fine for most applications. If you want a larger viewing area – useful for creative software – a 19" LCD is necessary. These start at around £250, but you'll need to spend £500 to get a 20" model with a 1,600x1,200 resolution. For games or DVDs, you should look for a response time of 16ms or less to prevent smearing or moving objects. DVDs will also benefit from a widescreen.

4 A video graphics array (VGA) input means the display will work with any PC, but a digital video interface (DVI) input removes unnecessary digital-to-analogue conversion of the picture, potentially improving sharpness and colour accuracy while eliminating interference. A DVI-equipped graphics card is required to use this.

5 Extras may include a USB hub, speakers, a microphone and even a TV tuner, which allows the display to double as a standalone TV.

FILL IN YOUR SPECS HERE
(Recommended minimum in grey)

IMAGE SIZE: 17"
NATIVE RESOLUTION: 1,280x1,024
RESPONSE TIME: 25ms
INPUTS: VGA
EXTRAS: